

Deputies who shot woman apparently lacked mental health certification

Daniel Connolly
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Recently released personnel records suggest two Shelby County Sheriff's deputies who fatally shot a suicidal woman in Lakeland last year were not certified as members of the Crisis Intervention Team, or CIT.

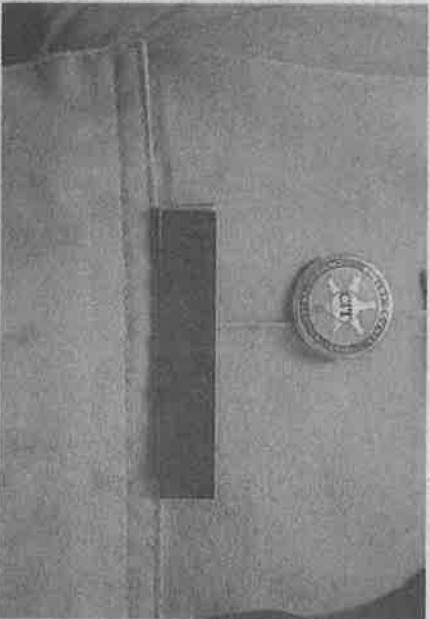
The CIT is a specialized group of deputies trained to use empathy and negotiation to defuse tense situations involving mental illness.

Deputies Robert Paschal and Marvin Wiggins fired the shots, according to records. A third deputy, Justin Jayroe, was on the scene and didn't fire. He is certified as a CIT member, according to the records.

The situation illustrates how mental illness can play a role in police shootings, and raises questions about the role of CIT specialization in preventing deaths.

Nancy Jane Lewellyn, 59, called 911 on March 17, 2017 threatening to shoot herself and others. She began the call by saying, "I'm gonna kill the next

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This image shows a Crisis Intervention Team pin on the uniform of a Shelby County Sheriff's deputy who was present at the fatal shooting of Nancy Jane Lewellyn in Lakeland on March 17, 2017. This was one of many photos taken during the shooting investigation. Though identifying information is redacted in this image, personnel records suggest that this is the uniform of Deputy Justin Jayroe, who is certified as a CIT member and did not fire his weapon. VIA SHELBY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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In Viewpoint

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Taps, the 24-note bugle call played at all military funerals and memorial services, originated in 1862 when Union Gen. Dan Butterfield decided the "lights out" call music was too formal to end the day. He either wrote an original tune or rewrote an old tune with the help of his brigade bugler. Not long after, a battery commander ordered Butterfield's tune played at a funeral instead of the customary three rifle volleys, because the battery was so close to the funeral that it was also used by Confederates.

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Marc Perrusquia
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Cheers rose as Nathan Bedford Forrest's statue finally came down, the Civil War general and his horse toppled after more than a century of standing in the Memphis sun, wind and rain like anachronistic guardians of the Old South.

Onlookers who huddled on that chilly night last December didn't realize it, but they'd witnessed more than just the momentous removal of Memphis' Confederate monuments — they also observed the rebirth of one of this city's enduring political legacies.

The crane hoisting the massive bronze statue at 4 p.m.